

## Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 EB-07 OMB-01 AGR-05 TRSE-00 COME-00

IO-13 /098 R

DRAFTED BY AF/W:TWMSMITH:BA

APPROVED BY AF-TALCOTT W. SEELYE

EUR/SOV-JGLASSMAN

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R 282347Z SEP 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

INFO AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 241423

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OIVP (TOLBERT, WILLIAM R.) LI

SUBJECT: TOLBERT VISIT: EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WITH FOREIGN  
MINISTER DENNIS

1. SEPTEMBER 23, LIBERIAN FOREIGN MINISTER DENNIS,  
ACCOMPANIED BY LIBERIAN EMBASSY COUNSELOR BULL, HAD TWO  
HOUR MEETING IN DEPARTMENT WITH ACTING AF ASSISTANT  
SECRETARY SEELYE, DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY (EUR)  
ARMITAGE, GLASSMAN (EUR/SOV) AND AF/W DIRECTOR. MEMCON  
POUCHED. FOLLOWING IS SUMMARY OF CONVERSATION.

2. GUINEA: ARMITAGE BEGAN BY SAYING GUINEA LESS AND LESS  
IMPORTANT TO SOVIETS AS A BASE AS THEIR CONVENTIONAL  
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BUILDUP INCREASES AND BECAUSE BACKFIRE BOMBER NOW GIVES

THEM CAPACITY SURVEY PARTS OF ATLANTIC THAT PREVIOUSLY COULD BE REACHED ONLY FROM GUINEA. SEELYE DESCRIBED GUINEA'S ANNOUNCED INTENTION TO SUSPEND INTELLIGENCE FLIGHTS AND SUMMARIZED GUINEA'S REQUEST FOR 10,000 TONS OF RICE, WHICH WE HAD AGREED TO MEET, AND FOR A SECURITY GUARANTEE, A DEFINITIVE REPLY TO WHICH WAS STILL UNDER CONSIDERATION. DENNIS SAID LIBERIAN POLICY IS CONTINUATION NEIGHBORLY RELATIONS WITH ALL STATES AND EMPHASIS ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, WHICH HE DESCRIBED AS "THE BEST SECURITY". SEELYE SAID REQUEST FOR SECURITY GUARANTEE,

WHILE FLATTERING, IS IMPOSSIBLE TO COMPLY WITH. NOTED THAT WHAT WAS REQUIRED WAS AFRICAN SOLUTION TO AFRICAN PROBLEM AND REQUESTED DENNIS' SUGGESTIONS. DENNIS SUGGESTED, AND WE AGREED, TO REGULAR EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION REGARDING GUINEA. DENNIS ALSO COMMENTED THAT TOLBERT WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY CONTINUE HIS PREVIOUS CUSTOM OF ASKING DENNIS TO VISIT VARIOUS AFRICAN CAPITALS TO BRIEF LOCAL LEADERS ON HIS TRIP. HE WOULD EXPECT TO VISIT CONAKRY AND COULD AT THAT TIME ASCERTAIN GUINEAN VIEWS.

3. NIGERIA: DENNIS SAID HE WAS ON GOOD TERMS WITH FMG, PARTICULARLY GARBA, BUT NOTED THE DIFFERENCE IN STYLE BETWEEN MILITARY AND CIVILIAN GOVERNMENTS. HE SAID NIGERIAN/ANGOLAN RELATIONS MIGHT NOT BE AS CORDIAL AS APPEARED FROM THE OUTSIDE, AND CITED AS EVIDENCE FACT THAT ANGOLAN FOREIGN MINISTER OMITTED NIGERIA FROM LIST OF THOSE COUNTRIES HE THANKED FOR ASSISTING ANGOLA AT MAURITIUS OAU MEETING. NO ANGOLAN WENT TO LAGOS TO PAY HIS RESPECTS AFTER MUHAMED'S ASSASSINATION. GARBA WAS ONCE DENIED THE OPPORTUNITY TO SEE NETO DURING A VISIT TO LUANDA.

4. ZAIRE/KENYA: DENNIS ASKED FOR A BRIEFING ON US RELATIONS WITH ZAIRE AND KENYA, AND RECEIVED BRIEF SUMMARY OF SITUATION.

5. GHANA: DENNIS SAID HE IS CONVINCED ACHEAMPONG WAS GENUINELY SICK WHEN HE REFUSED SEE SECRETARY IN APRIL. CONFIDENTIAL

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SUBSEQUENTLY HE ASKED ABOUT US AID TO GHANA AND WAS GIVEN BRIEF SUMMARY.

6. SOUTHERN AFRICA: DENNIS ASKED ABOUT VORSTER'S REACTION TO MEETING WITH SECRETARY IN ZURICH. SEELYE DREW ATTENTION TO NUMBER OF FAVORABLE SIGNALS PUBLICLY CONVEYED BY VORSTER BEFORE MEETING, DENNIS NOTED

AFRICAN IMPATIENCE WITH SITUATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, ACKNOWLEDGED US INTEREST IN, AND EFFORTS TO SOLVE, SOUTHERN AFRICAN PROBLEM AND ASKED US POSITION ON THE TRANSKEI. SEELYE SAID THAT ALTHOUGH OUR PUBLIC POSITION WAS THAT WE WERE "STUDYING THE QUESTION DENNIS SHOULD UNDERSTAND THAT WE ARE LIKLY TO RECOGNIZE THE TRANSKEI.

7. ALGERIA: IN RESPONSE TO DENNIS' QUESTION SEELYE SAID ALGERIAN INFLUENCE APPEARED TO BE WANING IN PART BECAUSE OF THE DOMINEERING TACTICS ALGERIA HAD EMPLOYED DURING THE PAST YEAR.

8. THE HORN: THERE WAS A BRIEF DISCUSSION OF THE SITUATION IN SOMALIA, ETHIOPIA AND DJIBOUTI. SEELYE EMPHASIZED THAT DESPITE ARAB INTERESTS IN DJIBOUTI, IT IS BASICALLY AN OAU PROBLEM.

9. AID TO SOUTHERN/CENTRAL AFRICA: SEELYE DESCRIBED AID TO MOZAMBIQUE, ANGOLA, ZAMBIA AND ZAIRE.

10. UGANDA: AT THE CLOSE OF THE MEETING DENNIS SAID "YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT PRESIDENT AMIN ASKED PRESIDENT TOLBERT TO TALK TO THE AMERICANS. HE ASKED KENYATTA TO TALK TO THE BRITISH. HE WOULD LIKE TO IMPROVE HIS RELATIONS WITH YOU. I WILL BE IN NEW YORK FOR A WEEK AFTER THE PRESIDENT LEAVES. IF I CAN BE OF ANY HELP, I WOULD LIKE TO MEDIATE". FOLLOWING DAY SEELYE SENT LETTER TO DENNIS ACKNOWLEDGING LATTER'S STATEMENT AND CONCLUDING THAT HE WOULD BE IN TOUCH WITH DENNIS BEFORE DENNIS LEFT NEW YORK.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** FOREIGN RELATIONS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 28 SEP 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** saccheem  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976STATE241423  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** TWMSMITH:BA  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760368-0330  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760910/aaaaaioh.tel  
**Line Count:** 154  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ORIGIN AF  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** saccheem  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 12 MAY 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <12 MAY 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <13 SEP 2004 by saccheem>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** TOLBERT VISIT: EXCHANGE OF VIEWS WITH FOREIGN MINISTER DENNIS  
**TAGS:** OVIP, PFOR, LI, (TOLBERT, WILLIAM R), (DENNIS, C CECIL)  
**To:** MONROVIA  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006